

THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS



SPRINGBOK 1990

The 90th Anniversary of Leliefontein



Lt. Turner



Lt Cockburn



Sgt Holland

"For Most Conspicuous Gallantry . . ."



**His Royal Highness
Charles
Prince of Wales
Colonel-in-Chief
The Royal Canadian Dragoons**



The Springbok

Annual Journal of The Royal Canadian Dragoons



Published by permission of
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COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT'S MESSAGE

1990 has been yet another memorable year for the Regiment. We said farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Appleton and Major Bill Brough and welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel Rick Hillier and Major Chris Glauninger to Petawawa and Gagetown respectively. We also said goodbye to CWO (RSM) Lynk and greeted CWO Sterling Mercer as the new RSM. In addition Brigadier-General G.G. Bell became Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps after serving as my predecessor in such an exemplary fashion for six most productive years.

Under the able command of Lieutenant-Colonel Appleton, the Regiment was re-established in Petawawa following 17 years in Germany plus a six month tour in Cyprus which was thrown in for good measure. LCol Hillier will hopefully have the time needed to "re-stabilize" the Regiment in our home station.

In addition to being on varying degrees of notice for operational reasons for lengthy periods, Dragoons in Petawawa managed to hold two major field exercises and conduct a Leliefontein week which was outstanding, to say the least. The parade on 03 November rates among the very best anywhere.

C Squadron was also able to conduct a three week field exercise and continued to support Combat Training Centre activities. C Squadron also was on operational standby for a lengthy period of time.

The 50th Anniversary of the Corps was celebrated by C Squadron and a Petawawa contingent by reaffirming the right of The Royal Canadian Dragoons to march through the streets of Fredericton. A mounted roll past of all of C Squadron's tanks and support vehicles was admired by over ten thousand spectators. A highlight for all was the reading of a message of

good wishes from His Royal Highness, Charles, Prince of Wales, our Colonel-In-Chief.

There are rumbles from those who should know better that the Main Battle Tank may not be replaced when Leopard I reach retirement. Not only should the army retain and redistribute what tanks there are; but an increased number of tanks is essential if Canada is to maintain a "general purpose combat capability". No modern army can do its job without them – let there be no mistake about that. It is a challenge to all of us to re-educate the uninformed, should it become necessary, again. Nobody knows the business of the balanced, combined arms team better than ourselves – remember that. You know, almost 100 countries today maintain fleets of main battle tanks greater in number than the Canadian Army. No military person who has seen war or can read should consider, for an instant, an army without tanks. Nor is there anyone in Canada competent to conclude otherwise. The deepest threat to our way of life, it seems to me, stems not from the leadership, physical and moral strength of Dragoons everywhere nor from a lack of daring or wisdom. It stems from a lack of inferior and insufficient equipment – the main battle tank should be at the top of the Canadian Forces "List"!

Equipment boards meet frequently. Personnel boards are convened constantly. Organization boards gather boringly. A chap named George W. Goethals once said, "I have always noticed that a board is long, wooden and narrow". Think tank and think positively.

God Bless, Good Luck, Good Hunting.

P.H.C. Carew
Brigadier-General
Colonel, Royal Canadian Dragoons



COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Ninety years ago, on the veldt of South Africa, the officers, NCOs and men of The Royal Canadian Dragoons set a standard of dedication, courage, skill and devotion to duty that will never be forgotten. It is worth remembering that on 7 November 1900 the Regiment was extremely undermanned, mainly because those who were sick, wounded or in jail (yes, even in those days Dragoons found spectacular ways to get into trouble) were not replaced. Their weapons were mostly discards from British regulars and their "vehicles" were imported horses (from Argentina), generally frail, small and not considered strong enough to do the tasks expected of a mounted regiment.

This is also an appropriate time to remember

the valour of the Regiment later that day, when we consider our undermanning, broken vehicles that can't do the job and the absence of tanks. It is especially frustrating as much of the rest of the world goes to war and we find ourselves unable, we think, to contribute. We must remember that The Royal Canadian Dragoons of 7 November 1900 had concentrated on the basics, ensured each Dragoon was as well prepared as possible and used the weapons and "vehicles" to best effect. We will continue to concentrate on the basics, make every Dragoon as competent a crewman as possible and use our vehicles to best advantage. Hopefully we can perform as well as Lieutenants Cockburn, Turner and Sergeant Holland if called upon to do so in the immediate future.

R.J. Hillier
Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding Officer



REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR'S MESSAGE

I am honoured to have been appointed the Regimental Sergeant Major of this time honoured unit. I take this opportunity to assure all Dragoons that have gone before us that the Regiment is blessed with ambitious young soldiers. These men have showed their ability to learn, endure and accomplish collective and individual goals.

Our leadership is above standard at all levels, in all corners of the Regiment. In these uncertain times, good leadership makes a regiment strong. We are striving to teach our new members the basics of soldiering and the art of looking after each other. This will ensure that the Regiment will excel, regardless of the task.

The Regiment will be extremely busy in the following months. However, we shall find time for

some fun and frolic. As always we welcome all members of the Regiment and Corps, past and present, to join us.

In closing, I thank all members of the Regiment and the Regimental Association for their continuous support with the ceremonial uniform project. To our ERE members: you are not LOB! Feel free to contact your Regiment at any time.

God Bless, Good Shooting, and Sleep Warm.

"A leader can only command respect and obedience from a body of men if they believe that their interest will always be his first consideration"

KURT

S.P. Mercer, MMM, CD
Chief Warrant Officer
Regimental Sergeant Major

The Year in Review



January — ATI
— Winter Warfare
— Ex PROUD FLAG

— PLEIN CONTACT
— Biathlon
February — RAMSHEAD 90
preparations
— IRON SIDES



March — Regt. Gun Camp
— MERRITT CUP 90

April — RAMSHEAD
COMPETITION



May — Ex SOUTHERN
THRUST
— PCF Courses

June — Militia Training
— Ex ON GUARD
90 in Meaford
— C Squadron
Change of
Command





July — *Regimental
Change of
Command.
— Block Leave*



August — *Freedom of the
City.
— Block leave
— AKWESASNE*



September — *Pre-CLC
— Small Arms Gun
Camp
— Osons Challenge
— Ironman*

October — Aid to the Civil Power
 — Ex SPRINGBOK STRIKE
 — CLC

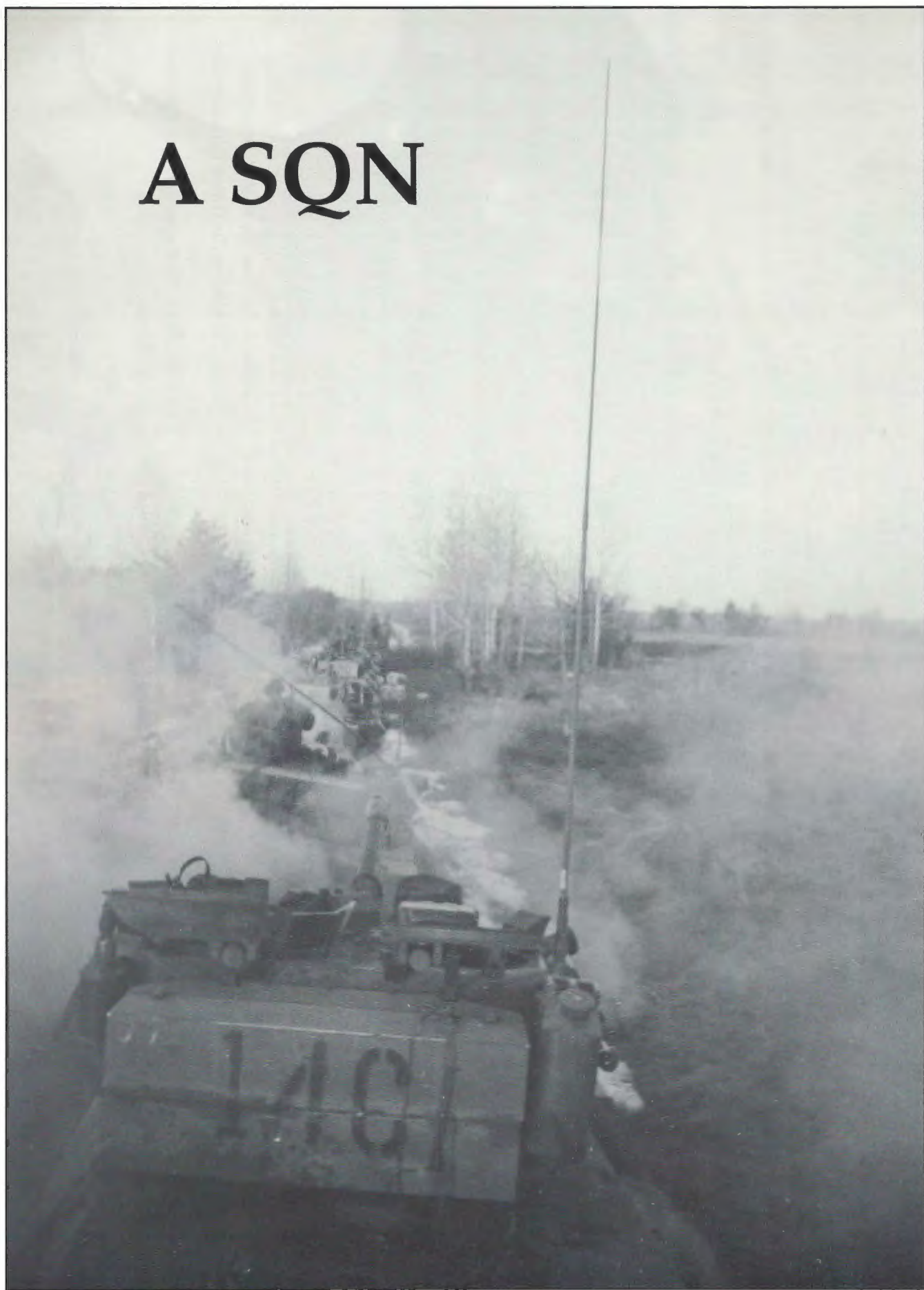


November — Leliefontein
 — Remembrance
 Day Ceremonies
 — Pre-ATI

December — ATI Preparations
 — Men's Christmas
 Dinner
 — Christmas Leave



A SQN





Rear: Tpr Sampson, MCpl Boudreau, Tpr Gardiner, Tpr Carter, Tpr Furman, Tpr Rice, Tpr David, MS MacDonald, Tpr Gaudreault, Tpr Prost, Tpr Mitchell, MCpl Rodd.

3rd Row: Cpl Yeomans, MCpl Thody, Tpr Leblanc, Tpr Wiwczor, Tpr Turmel, Cpl Stacey, Tpr Kirwan, Tpr Calissi, Tpr Potocnik, Tpr Morency, Tpr Duffett, Cpl Bissonnette, Cpl Novodvorsky, MCpl Berry, MCpl Meek, MCpl McTaggart.

2nd Row: Sgt Green, Sgt Duke, Sgt Tarrant, Sgt Thomas, Tpr Galipeau, Cpl Forbes, MCpl McKiel, Cpl Parker, Tpr Thibert, Tpr Aessie, Sgt Gagne, Sgt Tozer, Sgt Wright.

Seated: WO Franklin, Lt Blackburn, Lt Carson, Capt Holton, Maj Cessford, MWO Rousseau, Capt Maddison, WO Cucinelli, Lt Brunton.



A Sqn Jan - July 90



LIGHT TRACK COURSE 9002

Seated: Lt Carson, MWO Bierhorst, Maj Natynczyk, Sgt Carew.

Centre: Cpl Lamoureux, MCpl McTaggart, MCpl McTaggart J.R., MCpl Barlow, Tpr Cross, Tpr Alexander, Tpr Coady, Tpr Jones, Tpr Marentette, Tpr Maher, Tpr Bard, Tpr Williams, MCpl Fairbairn, MCpl Bennett, MCpl Girard, MCpl Pringle.

Rear: Tpr Nykorak, Tpr Ruiters, Tpr MacDonald, Tpr Pothier, Tpr Cyr, Tpr Power, Tpr Oland, Tpr Faberchuk, Tpr Mitchell, Cpl Davidson, Tpr Potocnik, Tpr Parker, Cpl Parker R.J., Tpr Murray, Tpr Grant, Tpr MacLean, Tpr Finlay, Tpr MacDonald, Tpr MacCulloch, Tpr Gordon.

The year 1990 arrived like a roaring lion, full of challenges and promise. A Sqn welcomed the new year under command of Major Walt Natynczyk and SSM Fred Bierhorst. It would prove to be a busy year and one full of surprises and activities.

January (as always) started off slow with ATI and ended with the troops in Meaford Ontario on exercise PROUD FLAG. The exercise was soon re-named "EXERCISE MURPHY'S LAW" by Maj Natynczyk when he found that he required not just one but three weather dependent execution paragraphs. The weather proved to be unseasonably warm and the temperature raised so high that many soldiers returned to their tents only to find their equipment, and clothes floating in a pool of water. Cries of "Abandon Ship - I mean tent" rang out through the bivouac area!

The month of February saw A Sqn officiating and supporting the SSF, FMC and the Cadet National Biathlons. This was a tremendous challenge but the Sqn rose to the demand. It was a special pleasure to watch the RCD team win the Army Patrol Competition. With the Biathlons over A Sqn found themselves involved in yet another major event; the RAMSHEAD Gunnery Competition. After winning the Regiment's RAMSHEAD Competition the Sqn left for Wainwright. Unfortunately the terrain would prove a hometown advantage as the Strathconas won the competition. The Dragoons placed third with 2 Tp under command of Lt Wayne Brunton and Sgt Fred Hiesler coming in first of our Sqn.

The highlight of the spring was exercise SOUTHERN THRUST, conducted in Fort Drum, New York. The terrain was difficult and cross country movement impossible. A sqn emphasized "Speed and Violence" while keeping to the roads, only using the terrain when it was dry and sandy! Capt Holton especially enjoyed the sand bowl where some vehicles managed to reach very high speeds as they eluded American MPs equipped with radar guns and ATVs!

The coming of summer brought with it the joys of Ex "ON GUARD 90". The Regiment deployed to Meaford and conducted three weeks of work-up training. After the joys of mounted training the Sqn was given a defensive position to prepare. Eight days and 57 trenches and bunkers later, the Sqn "downed tools". The days were long and muscles sore but throughout A Sqn maintained a very high level of morale. Newcomers to the Regiment learned to be very cautious when asking about "ON GUARD". When the holes were filled back in and the Change of

Command parades finished, all members of the Squadron departed on a well earned leave.

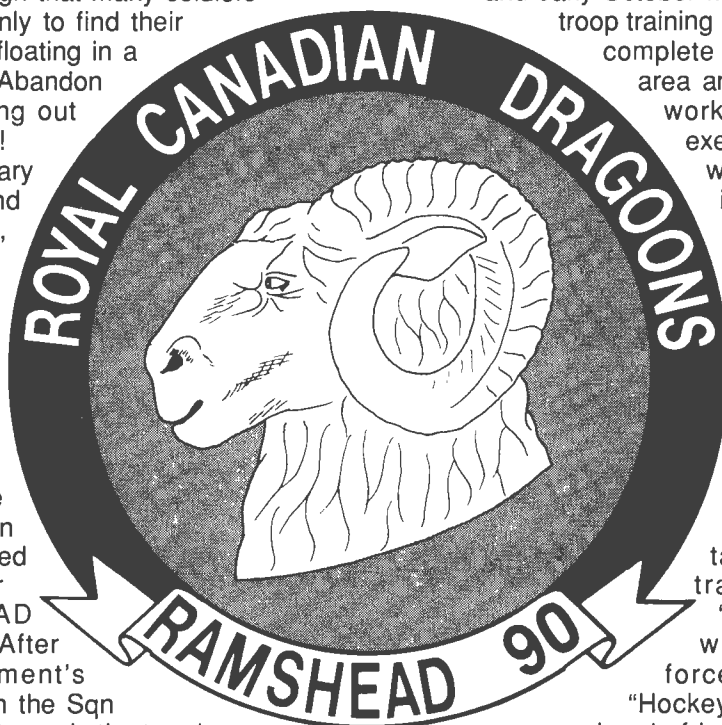
A Sqn returned from leave in mid August and quickly settled into a routine under the new guidance and leadership of Major Mike Cessford and MWO Luc Rousseau. The months of September and October found A Sqn in the breach as the Vanguard Sqn preparing for deployment to Akwesasne. The month of September saw A Sqn busy conducting it's refresher training. Lessons were taught in map reading, gunnery, NBC, first aid and small arms handling.

The training reached its peak in late September and early October with the troops deploying for troop training in the Petawawa area. The complete Sqn then moved into the area and soon found themselves working well as a team. The exercise was a great success with the troops never finding time to be bored as the training changed daily: defensive and armoured car operations, dismounted patrolling, cordon and search, escape and evasion and a night of troop vs troop. On one night exercise the Tp Ldrs worked together to "take out" the OC and BC; a particularly easy task. The highlight of the training was the "Akwesasne" exercise which saw a live enemy force under control of SSM "Hockeystick" Rousseau and his merry band of indians. A Sqn was quick to realize that aid-to-civil power operations could be boring, exciting and nerve racking, all at the same time. The Indians played their part well, throwing both insults and eggs.

The last weeks of October found much of A Sqn preparing for the Leliefontein Celebrations. The all ranks dance, organized by 4 Tp was a great success, with over 700 people in attendance. During the festivities the Sqn took top honours for its performance in the regimental sports day and drill competition. November found the troops busy on the open ranges as the Regiment challenged the Sqns with an interesting battle run which demand excellent tactical and gunnery skills. Following this training the Sqn found itself busy with ATI preparation, a task which would carry on until Christmas.

The Christmas party demonstrated that a good Sqn can both work hard and play hard. The party turned out to be a great success with maximum turn out. When the dust settled the Sqn departed on another well earned leave.

The year 1990 was a good one for the Sqn. A Sqn is now ready for all that 1991 may have to offer. From A Sqn "Good luck in 91" and be ABLE, ACTIVE and AGGRESSIVE!!





1 Tp enjoys a stroll during the annual 2 x 16 km.

*Ex SPRINGBOK STRIKE.
The Sqn prepares to advance.*



Sgt Gagné, Sgt Duke, Cpl Webber, MCpl Meek and an unknown warrior block a bridge to protest land rights.

*Lt Brunton leads
the charge with his
cavalry.*



*Are you sure
the gas is
clear?*

*Did someone
say indian?*



B SQN





Last Row: Tpr Draper, Tpr Lanning, Tpr Callaghan, Tpr McGill, Tpr McNutt, Tpr Clark, Tpr MacDonald, Tpr Arndt, MCpl Young, Tpr Lagace, Tpr Gillman, Cpl Johnson, Tpr Sharkey, Tpr Clarke, Tpr MacDonald, MCpl Smith, Tpr White, Tpr Parsons.

3rd Row: Pte Driscoll, Sgt Dube, Tpr Draeger, Tpr Dijulio, Cpl McConville, MCpl Kelly, MCpl Aucoin, Tpr King, Tpr Fage, MCpl Tremblay, Tpr Jeanson, Cpl Matheson, Tpr Sampson, Tpr Wellington, Tpr Gordon, Tpr Pool, MCpl Gwaizda, Tpr Keddy.

2nd Row: Cpl Brabbins, Tpr Conlan, MCpl Brown, Tpr Hayes, Tpr Kroft, Tpr Cowan, Tpr Parker, Cpl Bergeron, Cpl Waddleton, Tpr Bard, Tpr Ireland, Tpr Ferguson, Tpr Williams, MCpl Hatfield, Cpl Christianson, MCpl Zinck, MCpl Manion, Cpl Landry.

1st Row: Sgt Carter, Sgt Desrochers, Sgt Carberry, Sgt Dube, WO Boutilier, Lt Plourde, Lt Workman, SSM Hills, Maj Hale, Capt Nixon, Lt Charles, WO Hopkins, Sgt Barr, Sgt Fiegen, Sgt Hendsbee, Sgt Breau.

B SQN 90 – a year in pictures

1990 was a very busy year for the Sqn. The many activities, the gun camps and the exercises brought the Sqn closer together. By the end of the year we were operating like a well-oiled machine.

The Sqn started the year with Ex PROUD FLAG. The troops were given many tasks which involved the defence of Canada. RAMSHEAD 90 was a very successful training period for the Sqn. 4Tp won the award for the top Troop in the Mini RAMSHEAD and in addition to that award, c/s 24 was named the top crew.

In the spring, the Sqn headed to Fort Drum. There, we proceeded to master the American's ranges and training ground. Upon return from Exercise, the Sqn started teach the various PCF courses in preparation for the summer activities.

In the month of June, the Sqn was on the road to Meaford. In addition to performing Troop and Sqn training in preparation for the Regimental Ex, the Sqn played an instrumental part in the training of the Militia units. The Sqn rounded out the summer with the Regimental Change of Command Parades.

Fall 90, the Sqn stretched itself to the limit. The Sqn supplied men for numerous tasks, provided a 50 man guard for the Armour 50th anniversary in Borden, and readied itself for the upcoming exercise. Exercise SPRINGBOK STRIKE 90 provided the Sqn with a wide variety of tasks involving Aid to the Civil Power.

November 7th, the Sqn joined the Regiment in the celebration of the action at Leliefontein. The Sqn did an outstanding job in running this years Volksmarch. In December, the Sqn started on much-

needed maintenance in preparation for the Annual Technical Inspection. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the next few pages write a novel of B Sqn in the year 1990.



A demonstration on how to light the coleman stove.

Ex PROUD FLAG



4 Troop wins skill at arms competition.

RAMSHEAD '90



*2B testing out
the Sqn SOP's.*



*Cougars on
the pad at
Hotel Tower.*

Ex SOUTHERN THRUST



Vehicles marshalled and ready to go beside C 103.



*Sgt Hendsbee and
Cpl Johnson eagerly
wait to start battle.*



*American tanks
make way for the
Cougars.*

ON GUARD '90



4 Tp and 3 Tp still looking for the Sqn hide.



A time for replenishment.



Lt Lepage copies orders on his map.

ARMOUR PARADE • CFB BORDEN



*MWO Hills inspects the Sqn
before the 50th anniversary
parade in Borden.*



*Maj Hale takes
command.*



C SQN





C SQUADRON 1990

The year 1990 saw C Squadron, in accordance with its continuing operational tasking to 1 Canadian Division, conduct a full slate of Squadron training, as well as supporting various courses for the Combat Training Centre. Both of these duties resulted in a fulfilling and exciting year for all members of the Squadron.

January started out with vehicle maintenance being the top priority in preparation for the Annual Technical Inspection. Hard work and long hours resulted in all of the Squadron tanks receiving an excellent rating. Three Troop, under the direction of Lt Bill Main, WO Paul Dunphy, Sgt James Cook and MCpl Trent Williams came out of the inspection as the Top Troop.

Gunnery refresher training took up most of the month of February and led into Gun Camp in March. Under the direction of the Battle Captain, Capt JP MacIntyre, and the Squadron Gunnery Warrant Officer, WO Bill Saunders, the camp consisted of static shoots, stab runs, and battle runs. The highlight of the gun camp was the Troop Top Gun Competition. This year the competition consisted of target acquisition and time of engagement, falling plates, and battle runs. One Troop, under Lt James Bradley, WO Kurt Fischer and MCpls Sid Nayel and Mario Vivier came away the victors. Winner of Top Crew was 34B, namely, Sgt Ted Betts, Tprs Mike Andrews, Darren Burgess and Frank Flock. Of note, during this year's gun camp, tanks of the Canadian Forces conducted night battle runs for the first time in 30 years.

The Base winter sports leagues finished up in March with the Hockey Team losing in the semi-finals. The Broomball Team, under Coach SSM Bruce Prendergast's direction, finished off an undefeated season by winning the Combat Training Centre Championship.

Exercise ROYAL SPRINGBOK, live-fire, began with the Squadron conducting a road move down Highway #7 to Petersville. Together with H Coy, 2RCR, and engineer elements from 22 Fd Sqn, the year's training culminated with this exciting exercise.

After an Easter respite, the Crew Commanders participated in Exercise ROSE VALLEY II, a TEWT to

Prince Edward Island. This year's area of concentration included the defense, delay and composite obstacle breaching.

Adventure Training was conducted during May. White water rafting was a popular choice this year among four of the Troops while One Troop hiked in New York State and Three Troop spent a week canoeing. The always busy Maintenance Troop managed to get a couple of days to participate in the EME Bonspeil.

The Squadron participated in the Brigade Exercise On Guard 90 during May and June. The exercise consisted of work-ups with the various Rifle Companies of 2RCR and R22R, a regimental Ex with 12 RBC, and finally, the 5e Brigade Ex. Highlights included close operation with our friends of H Coy, 2RCR during the defensive evaluation and a one-on-one Ex with M60s from A Coy, 2nd Btn 172 ND Armour from Vermont.

The summer cycle started with C Squadron once again defeating 22 Fd Sqn in the annual sports competition. The year's bragging rights were firmly established by the Squadron winning all seven of the events.

The Squadron bade farewell to Major W.N. Brough and welcomed aboard Major C.J. Glauning as the new Commanding Officer during the Change of Command Parade on 28 June. This also marked the beginning of summer block leave for half of the Squadron.

Although somewhat less hectic, the summer still proved busy as both a Leopard Gunner Course and a Light Track Course were run to further qualify Squadron personnel. Tpr John Harju was Top Candidate on the Driver Course while Tpr Coby Wilson finished up first on the Gunner Course.

In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, the Squadron participated in a number of activities. First and foremost was the exercising of the right of the Freedom of the City of Fredericton which was first granted to the Regiment on the occasion of its centennial in 1983. With tanks and Lynxs designated to represent the entire Regiment, and a scarlet Honour Guard and Guidon Party from Petawawa, the parade was led into downtown Fredericton by the Commanding Officer, LCol R.J. Hillier. The spectacle of parading horses and tanks was witnessed by thousands of onlookers and reaffirmed

*Leopard
night shoot.*





*Guncamp
February 90.*

the friendship that exists between the city and the Regiment.

The following day, a small C Squadron party stood guard over a new monument as the Colonel of the Regiment, BGen P.H.C. Carew, officially dedicated Worthington Tank Park, the Squadron's home away from home during field deployments.

The second block leave started following this parade. It was also during August that three tanks and their crews made their way to Montreal to participate in OP SALON. As well, the Squadron Fastball Team won the CTC Championship against its arch rivals, the Armour School.

With the Sqn back on the ground in September, it deployed to Worthington Tank Park to begin the Fall Concentration, running 10 September - 12 October. This exercise consisted of various types and levels of training. Individual training, consisting of NBCW, comms, small arms, and crew skills was followed by a solid week of troop level training. The first portion of the deployment ended with a week of Sqn workups.

A two-day patrol Ex was run the next week with the aim being the deployment of leadership skills at the junior level. All patrols were conducted with the Corporals and senior Troopers acting as patrol leaders and 21Cs. The patrols covered included recce, fighting, ambush, and establishing OPs. This was followed by training to familiarize the Sqn with internal security operations. This Ex culminated with the quelling of the unruly dissidents in the fictional town of Armourville.

The last week of the concentration was dedicated to the final Sqn Ex, which covered all phases of war. Highlights of this included orders in the "FUHRER BUNKER", the innovative deception plan leading to a very successful deliberate night attack, and the final days of "BLITZKRIEG" from Headline Ridge through the training and impact areas to the Sqn lines.

C Squadron Sports Day was held 26 October and Four Troop came away the victors. That weekend saw Leliefontein (Gagetown) activities take place for C Squadron, members of the Atlantic Chapter RCD Association, and Dragoons on ERE postings on the area. This led right into Leliefontein 90 in Petawawa where eighteen members of the Squadron made the trip to participate in the Regimental celebrations.

The end of November found the Squadron conducting refresher training, a swim camp, and the 2 x 10. December saw the start of pre-ATI maintenance, and a Squadron Operational Readiness Check. As well, nine of the Squadron Corporals returned from successful CLC courses. Christmas block leave began following the annual Officers' and Senior NCO's vs the Men's Broomball Game and the Men's Christmas Dinner.

The dual role of C Squadron, as both an operational unit and as one tasked to support various CTC courses, results in both a busy and varied year for all its members. C Squadron looks forward to continuing service to 1 Canadian Division, the Combat Training Centre, and The Royal Canadian Dragoons.

*3 Troop's
battle run.*



*Maint Tp takes a
break on the
ammo point
during live fire
Ex.*



*LCol Hillier leads
C Sqn during
Freedom of the
City parade in
down town
Fredericton.*

*The Sqn begins
roadmove to
WTP.*



RECCE SQN 1990



THE OLD



THE NEW, BIGGER, BETTER FORCE RECONNAISSANCE

RECCE SQN - 1990 "THE TRANSFORMATION"



BLACKDOWN PARK – A BLACK BEGINNING.

MCpl Cox, MCpl McTaggart and MCpl Berry
"Look it's a camera".



Lt. Crymble giving an O Gp to 2Tp
"This is your enemy!"



We know its you Tpr Malloy "Don't be such Moolie!"



Sgt Dobbin and MCpl McNutt –
Look twins and their mom dresses them the same.



Massive fire power – if Saddam Hussein only knew what he was getting into.



Tpr Pynn spills his guts for the First Aid Competition.



Snr NCOs present Lt Frank with a token of their appreciation.



Merritt Cup – Adm and Maint the old guys, come on – where's the canteen?

RECCE SQN '90

The year began as always for Recce Sqn, operating on its own or as enemy force. However, as the year progressed a new sense of identity grew. No longer were other units in awe of Recce because they didn't know anything about it, now they were in awe because they had seen the force in action.

PROUD FLAG left the squadron on its own during the "exercise that wasn't supposed to happen" and WO McNeil probably wishes hadn't. Conventional ops on the economy tested the map readers skills and was a welcome change to memorized training areas. Merritt training brought isolation in the Mattawa Camp and practice, practice, practice. Its too bad the Wainwright elevation and dog air couldn't have been reproduced here. Merritt Cup came and went. A respectable showing by all. In 1991 it will be all ours! ON GUARD 90 put Recce Sqn by the side of the two Sabre Squadrons in assisting to train the Militia. More than one soldier learned the value of alertness as he/she ended up marching down the road in their

underwear. Although the "Regimental Ex" had Recce being the enemy again it could have been the last time this honour was held as an exclusive job.

EX SPRINGBOK STRIKE brought the Regiment together performing what in Canada may be its primary purpose – Aid to the Civil Power. Recce Sqn went into the practice Indian Reserve alongside B Sqn and subunits were freely attached and detached as need arose. Everyone became aware that the traditional North West Europe confrontation wasn't the only game in town and soldier skills must be flexible enough to do whatever job arises. Leliefontein found Recce Sqn operating the Sports day and crushing all opponents at ice hockey.

The year ended with courses and pre ATI maintenance. 1991 looks like it will be an increased pace even from last year. MERRITT, LIGHTNING STRIKE and another ON GUARD will keep Recce busy if the real thing doesn't interrupt the schedule.



The Regiment? No the new Recce Sqn.



Question – “Who said we couldn’t go to McDonalds?”

Answer – “Whoever it was couldn’t have meant us, could he?”

*Finally training in the **Real** world.*



Tpr Walsh, MCpl Cox, MCpl Pringle, Tpr Webb, Cpl Robblee and MCpl Wilmink – “THE BAD GUYS”.



Let’s hope Tpr Pynn got new glasses for his birthday.



2nd Tp public relations on a cold night.

MERRITT CUP – 1990



*PT for Merritt –
Notice 1st Tp's
SOP position.*



2nd Tp.



A Recce Tp on the move. Budget cuts out of control.



Tpr Cairns and MCpl Pringle. Sears pose.



*Sp Tp – Now lets
get this right.*



*WO Wiebe
without his
coffee cup?*



*3rd Tp
Think Tank!*



The Merritt standard OP.

It went okay, we were told, although not much of 2nd Tp survived. It seems 1st Tp decided to make a quick exit, leaving 2nd Tp with the excellent opportunity to prove its worth, holding off superior odds while the Squadron made its escape. Although 1st Tp weren't the only ones to avoid the battle; Captain Barr and the crew of 4A had to abandon ship as it threw a track and proceeded to roll back down the hill out of control. This is not to say the Strathcona equipment was bad but . . .



Codes.



Sgt Green and Sgt Ferguson: "Have you seen my hockey bag?"



3rd Tp – Men at work and play.



The Face Off.



The Goal – The natural order of things.



The Drill Competition – They came.



They went.

RECCE SQN (continued)

The Recce Sqn of 1990 underwent a major transformation in August of 1990. The old regime of Major Black and SSM Rousseau gave way to the new "forces to be reckoned with"; Major Ryder-Burbidge and SSM Levesque. The change in styles became quickly apparent; while Major Black was more a "concepts man", Major Ryder-Burbidge is concepts, detail and likely to appear anywhere at anytime. Captain Oldham soon learned that in the field he would gain a lot of "TIB" (Time in Box (CP)) because the OC, a former BC himself, had developed claustrophobia and

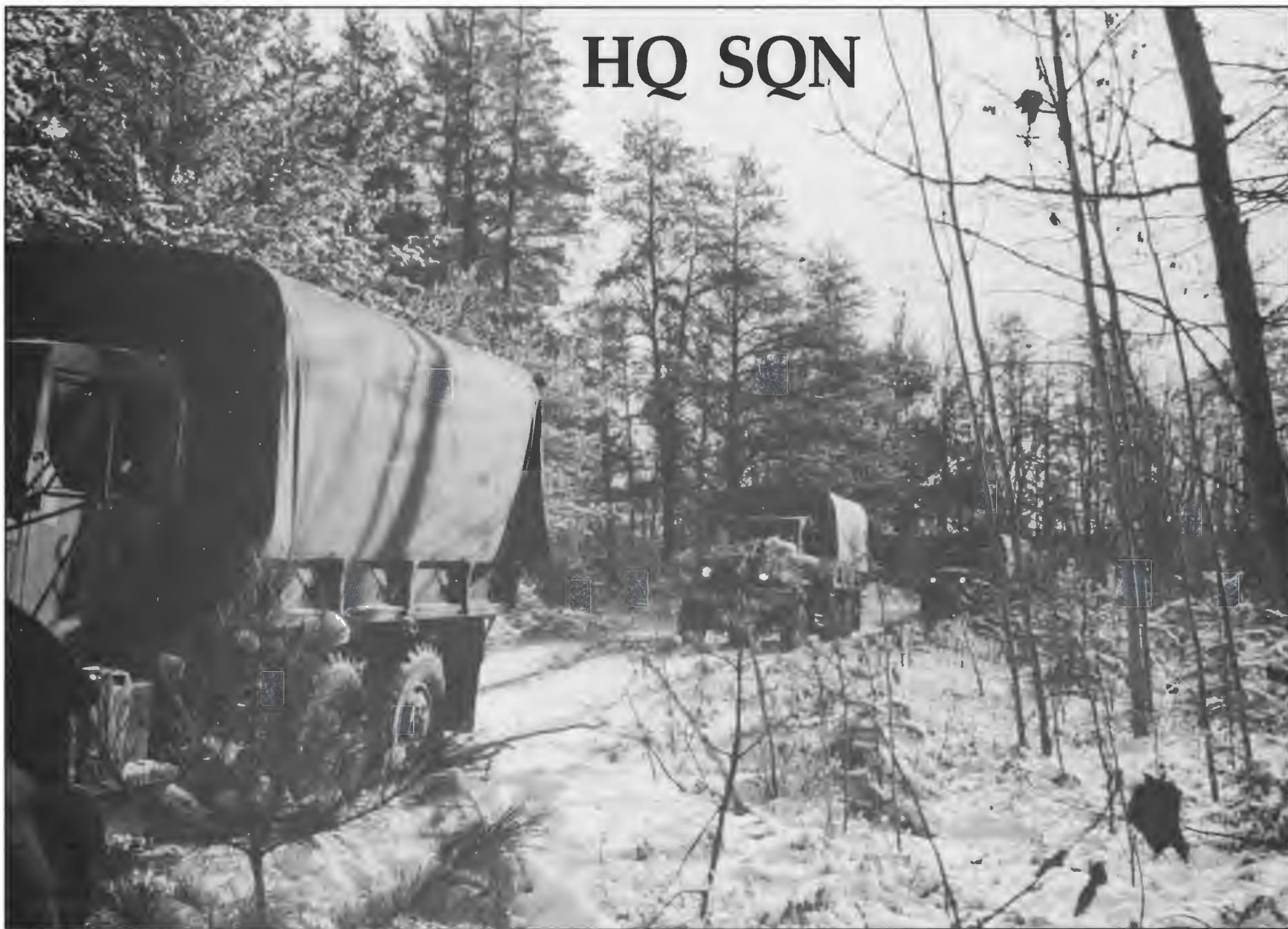
rarely could be found near the CP. Tactically sound yes, but did he have to enjoy it so much!

SSM Levesque learned that being a Sergeant-Major wasn't that far from the action, especially since he possessed an awesome three man echelon. SSM Levesque drove his truck (although we still question the wisdom of this), operated the canteen and did any other odd job going. If the year to follow is anything like the fall of 1990 it will be a "no holds barred" year. Major Ryder-Burbidge and SSM Levesque clearly intend to enjoy their tenure and no amount of imaginative rule bending will be spared in the search for victory.



Major Ryder-Burbidge and SSM Leveque promote Cpl Belliveau.

HQ SQN





Fourth Row: Sgt Smith, Cpl Bruce, Tpr Glover, Cpl Tait, Cpl Beauvais, MCpl Bolduc, MCpl Pahl, Cpl McNeil, Cpl Dupre, Pte Reid, Pte Gagne, Cpl Tawton, Tpr Arsenault, Tpr Malin, MCpl Vanthournout, Cpl Hayes, Cpl Bench, Pte Grabowski, Cpl Riddell, Tpr Czech, Tpr Laferriere, MCpl Morris, MCpl Crook, Cpl Rowe, LS Gillis.

Third Row: Sgt Wareham, MCpl Manente, Pte Gould, Tpr Kemp, Tpr McArthur, MCpl Allan, Tpr Musikov, Cpl Pring, Cpl Webber, MCpl Robidoux, MCpl McKenzie, Tpr Lapham, Tpr Byrne, Cpl Lafleur, Tpr Gagnon, MCpl Nolin, Tpr Scott, Cpl Lowe, Cpl Lindsay, Pte Johnson, Sgt Fagan.

Second Row: WO Scott, Sgt Cable, Sgt Hobbs, MCpl St. Denis, Pte Schnurr, MCpl Van Den Heuvel, MCpl Robbins, Tpr Sicotte, Tpr Zacharias, Pte Young, Cpl Jinks, Cpl Morris, Cpl Gour, Pte McLeod, Cpl Gale, Cpl Baltzer, Cpl Kent, Pte Pettigrew, MCpl Boon, Cpl Wyatt, MCpl Barcier, MCpl Ledwinka, MCpl Chenier, WO Landry.

First Row: Sgt Brillon, MWO Lusk, WO Smith, Lt (N) Durrett, Capt Steele, Capt Edwards, MWO Mokler, Maj Natynczyk, Capt Splaine, Capt Ross, Capt Herbert, Capt Bourgeois, MWO Crowther, Sgt Brooks, Sgt Jazwinski, PO2 Savoie.

As HQ Sqn broke in the new year with preparations for Ex PROUD FLAG, it also had a new and optimistic motto. "HQ Sqn, A Pleasure to Serve" would be the words whispered by everyone as they carried out their duties. Major Ray Richards and SSM Peter Wonderham were busy planning the next seven months until block leave with goals of supporting the Regt, training the Sqn, and organizing several recreational activities.

Ex PROUD FLAG from 15 - 26 Jan would be the first step on our way to meeting our goals. SSM Wonderham, Sgt John Schaap and a small work party deployed to Meaford one day before the main body and had little more to do than unpack three 40 foot trailers, set up all the modular and shovel half the snow in the training area. Once on the ground the A2 and B Echelons completed some very good training doing road moves to the Town of Meaford and City of Owen Sound. This training provided many newcomers to the Sqn with a look at how the support element of the Regt deployed.

February was a month of relative relaxation with PO2 Paul Savoie organizing first aid trg on the seventh and ski days were planned for the ninth and 22nd. The relative calm of February would lead to one of the busier months of the year. March was dedicated mainly to Gun Camp and preparations for RAMSHEAD, but the Sqn was still able to complete some training. MCpl McKeil was busy organizing the "MCpl's Day" trip to the War Museum, National Art Gallery and other points of interest in Ottawa. On the 20th the Sqn converged on the Centennial Center for a curling bonspiel. Seasoned veterans and beginners combined for a colourful and exciting day. Regt Tpt were clad in traditional Hungarian curling attire which did not help their play. Barely recovered from curling, on the 20th a majority of the Sqn mounted their vehicles and completed the Cpl/Ptes day road rally. The event, organized by Cpl Brabbins, included a number of stands that tested knowledge of everything from using a compass to the name of the Sqn AO. MCpls Otis and Boon were able to out manoeuvre and outguess the rest of the Sqn and were the overall winners. Just so it wasn't an entire month of fun everyone had to complete their annual Express Test during the week of 19 March.

Preparations for RAMSHEAD and Meritt Cup took care of April as HQ Sqn did its part to help A, B and Recce compete in Wainwright. May was the month that ON GUARD became part of our vocabulary as everyone worked in earnest to prepare for "Total Force in the Making". There was still time to organize a two day trip to the LAV plant in London. As well, several crewmen and maintainers participated in Ex SOUTHERN THRUST in Fort Drum, N.Y. from

12 - 18 May. Everyone not participating in SOUTHERN THRUST were encouraged to do some form of adventure training. Maint Tp organized a fishing trip and invited some members of Tpt to attend. SHQ organized a trip to Kingston to sail in the frigid waters of Lake Ontario.

On 2 June everyone was off to the golf course to participate in the Sqn tournament. Golfing proved to be the last bit of enjoyment before deploying to Meaford. June 11 came upon us quickly and before we knew it we were in Meaford, up to our ears in mud, commending the cooks on the spices in our food, only to find out that the caterpillars had more to do with what was in our food than the cooks. During the Battle Group Exercise from 16 - 19 June. HQ supported the Sabre Sqns in their quest to defeat the Redland Army. After completing three road moves from Meaford to Borden and back to Meaford there was a nine day period to prepare for the arrival of the Militia units on 1 July. ON GUARD 90 ended on 14 July when the Regt main body moved back to Petawawa.

The following week was hectic as postings, Change of Command Parade rehearsals and vehicle maintenance were priorities. HQ Sqn performance on parade was as keen as ever and earned them a three week vacation (block leave).



Early August was quiet as the Sqn completed its well deserved rest. Upon return from block leave the Sqn was once again thrown into the fire in response to the events at Oka and Chateaugay, as it hastily prepared itself and the Regt for a heightened state of readiness. Tpt and Maint Tps were kept very busy responding to the requirements brought about by the increased activities of the Sabre Sqns. At the same time, QM staff were returning and receiving numerous truckloads of stores as they cleaned house after ON GUARD 90 and the Change of Command and prepared for operational and fall trg reqs.

August also signalled the closing of APS 90 within the Sqn. Major Walt Natynczyk took over as OC, MWO Fred Bierhorst became SSM. Capt Lowell Thomas 21C, Capt Bruce Edwards (Bruiser) Regt Tpt O, Capt Kevin Steele QM, Capt "Mickey" Splane AO, MWO Jim Crowther RQMS, and finally WO Ron Scott as SQMS.

Individual refresher training was the norm for the month of September as new members of the Sqn were brought up to speed. Small arms, NBCD, and 2x16 kilometer forced march were but a few of the many trg activities HQ Sqn squeezed in between its regular routine of driving, resupplying, maintaining, and bandaging the Regt. In addition HQ Sqn organized and conducted the first Regt Swim Camp in approximately two years.

October was dominated by Ex SPRINGBOK

STRIKE and preparations for the Leliefontein celebrations. Ex SPRINGBOK STRIKE was a field trg ex that concentrated mainly on Internal Security operations. HQ Sqn was kept very busy replenishing and repairing the Regt all over the trg area. As the ex neared to a close, HQ Sqn formed the enemy force with Capt Edwards in command. A great time was had by all, especially Cpl Lloyd Tawton the Regt Carpenter, who distinguished himself for the most number of arrests.

Leliefontein celebrations in November were a welcome break from the busy training and CSS routine. Sgt Jazwinski, PO2 Savoie and Cpl Rowe were some of the heavyweights that established HQ Sqn as a force to be reckoned with in the Tug of War for this and future celebrations. The Sqn narrowly missed winning the overall championship, due to a slightly less than perfect drill performance.

The remainder of 1990 was spent preparing for the Regt's ATI in January 1991. All members of the Sqn put forth a tremendous effort never letting up. It was a fitting end to a year that started out and finished at full speed ahead. Year 1991 promises to be busy with numerous courses, and events already beginning to fill in the new calendar year. As always, HQ Sqn is looking forward to the challenge of keeping its customers satisfied. To twist a familiar phrase "A good customer is a happy customer".



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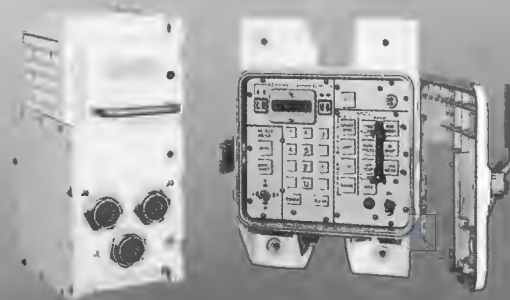
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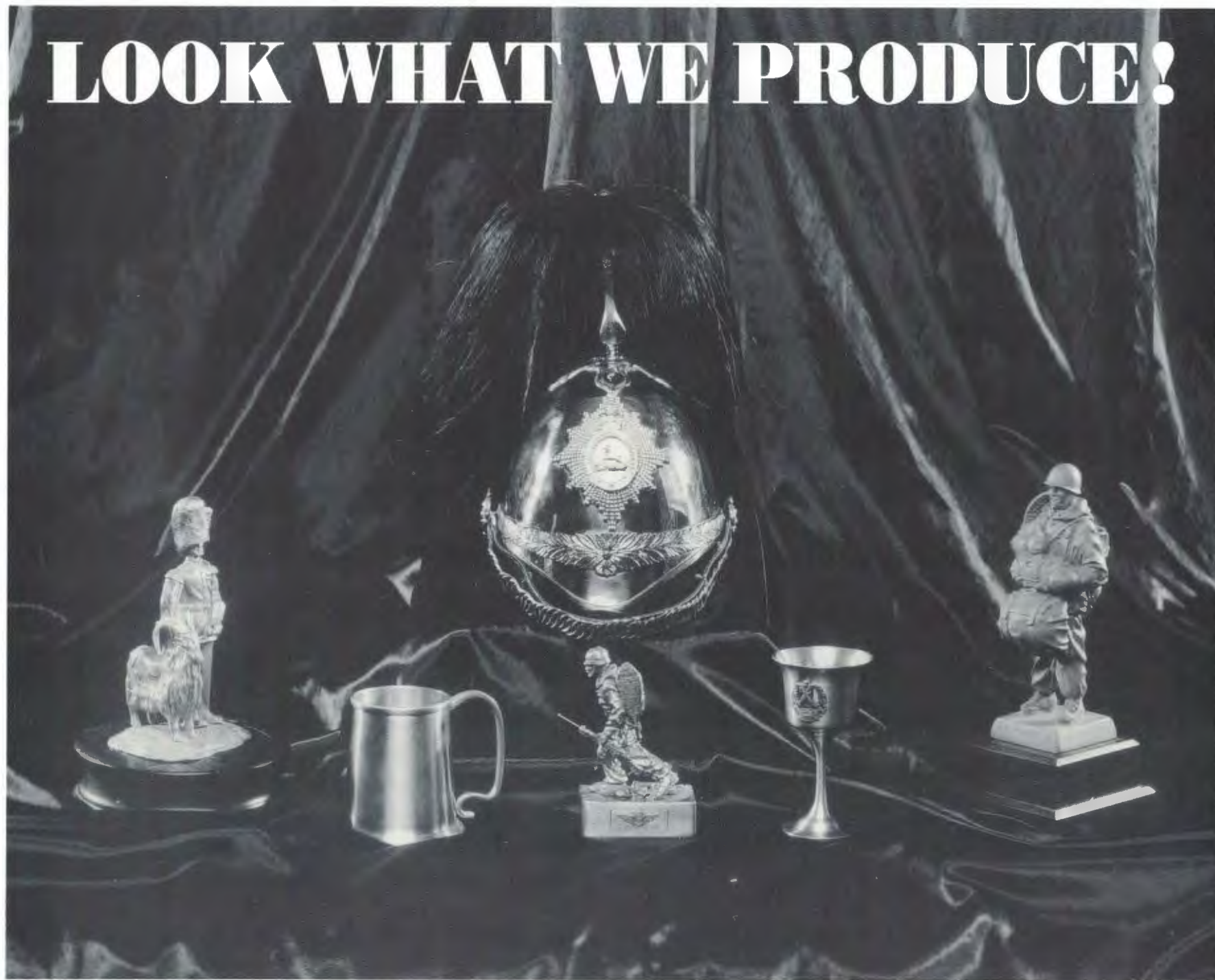


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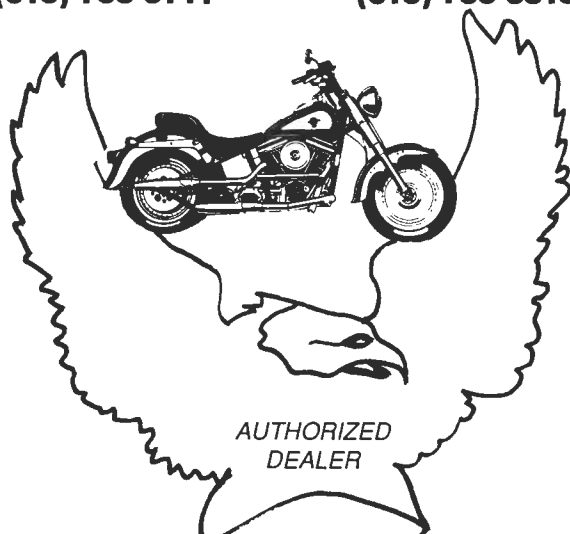
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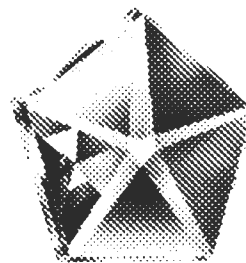
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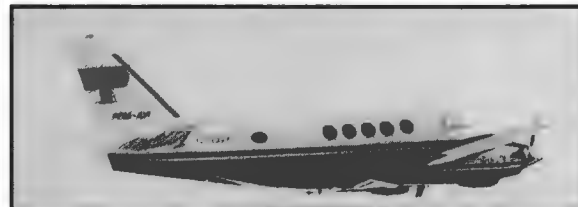
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Front Row: Lt King, Capt Loftus, Capt Atkins, CWO Mercer, LCol Hillier, Maj Gorman, Maj Kampman, Capt Ostler, Capt Coxhead.

Center Row: WO Howes, Sgt Carew, WO Lamarche, PO2 Lavis, Cpl Gratton, Cpl Heissler, Tpr Cartwright, MCpl Lacoursiere, Pte Evans, Pte Johnson, Pte Chaster, Sgt O'Quinn, WO Wionzek.

Rear Row: Cpl Jones, Cpl Walker, MCpl McRae, Cpl Rees, MCpl Manny, Cpl Davidson, MCpl Bellier, MCpl Farr, Sgt Wheatley, Cpl Griffin.

Missing: WO Meighan, Capt Howes, Cpl McCallister, Cpl Ovens, Tpr Kirwan, Cpl Rodden, Cpl Dignard, Capt Swayne, Cpl Smith, Sig Easterbrook, Sgt Marchand, MCpl Tremblay, Tpr Cunningham, Cpl McConville.

Once again it has been an extremely active year for RHQ. Three major FTX's, Change of Command and Leliefontein have left little time to spare.

It all began in January with Ex PROUD FLAG. WO Meighan, WO Shaw and MCpl Bellier will probably never forget the night the Herman Nelson caught on fire, but then again neither will MCpl St Dennis and Cpl Soltys, who now know not to refuel a hot heater. Fortunately no one was hurt. Repairs included one small hose and the hair on Cpl Soltys's arm. Credit should be extended to WO Gosse, who managed to locate RHQ on a pond. Evidently his commissions from rubber boot sales in Meaford were quite handsome.

Of course WO Gosse's fame continued on, into Ex ON GUARD 90. As Chief Architect and Camp Ramrod, he managed to create the Training Group Headquarters complex [Moon Base Alpha] out of modular tentage. It was an impressive array that made the Megaplex in St Jean look small. Once finished WO Gosse then convinced Capt Atkinson to go flying, and we all know the results of that trip. It was a flop; but seriously, we were all relieved to discover that once again no one was seriously injured. Other honorable mentions should be extended to Sarah "you make good cookies" MacLaren and WO Sloan, who created a well stocked SQ out of nothing (no questions asked there).

Highlights of Ex SPRINGBOK STRIKE included Bullwinkle and The Mothers Against Indian Violence, lead by WO Meighan. WO Meighan was so attractive, he enticed Major Cessford into trying to pick him up.

Between exercises, RHQ was busy saying good-bye to LCol Appleton and RSM Lynk and welcoming LCol Hillier and RSM Mercer during the Change of Command and RSM parades. As always Leliefontein was a huge success. It usually is if the Assistant Adjutant comes away from it unscathed.

The year came to an end with the RHQ funspiel and Christmas Party. A good time was had by all, including "Scarface Loftus". Skips Lt King and PO2



The new ROS. "Good Morning RSM"

Lavis went head to head in what could have been the upset of the year. It all came down to a sudden death play off, which the veteran (but scared) team won. As the year draws to a close we look to the next and to the many challenges it will bring us. If this year is any indication of what is to come, next will be even better.

So for all you Springbok lovers, good reading and may all your kit bags remain on hand and not at the mercy of reckless drivers.



Time for a security check Maj Gorman?



Ex Proud Flag – "Look for open water we are heading back to the hide."

LASTING IMPRESSIONS OF A BRITISH EXCHANGE OFFICER

– by Capt Swayne –

I intend to recount my first months in Canada although I have no intention of relating the many and varied pranks played at my expense upon arrival at the Regiment; this information is well documented and often aired – suffice it to say that it was late tea-time on the day of my arrival in Petawawa before I met the real Commanding Officer who welcomed me as the first British Exchange Officer to The Royal Canadian Dragoons for rather a long time.

The first fortnight went terribly quickly; I was installed as the training officer, given rooms quite luxurious in comparison to the warrior monk accommodation British Officers are used to, and entertained in sharply contrasting styles, from the elegance and charm of a full mess dinner overlooking the Ottawa river to the tortuous beer sodden initiation on the wagon wheel in the Liri Valley Mess. My hardest task however, has been understanding the language, although it wasn't long before I was fully au fait with moosemilk, peaches and cream cornboils, meet and greets and full contact crud. As for the military glossary, there are more differences to the British system than I have uniforms.

I arrived at a potentially exciting time. On the reserves the natives were restless and it seemed likely that the Regiment would be sent to remind them of their citizens' responsibilities; relevant training was implemented immediately and everybody was prepared to go within a very short time, but the weather worsened and the Warriors went home. Hopefully the Regiment will play a part in operations before the Quebec Provincial Police arm themselves with main battle tanks, as is their wish. The British are painfully aware of the escalation of bitterness if a situation is mis-handled, and the violent tragedy of Northern Ireland must be avoided here.

I was given some indication of the severity of the Canadian winter to come when I was issued enough clothing to equip a small platoon in a temperate climate, a certain amount of which I had to carry on a little jaunt called the OSONS Challenge. I teamed up with another Brit and we both meandered from stand

to stand intrigued with what was next in store for us. I sporadically irritated my counterparts by playing the mouth organ but I didn't feel quite so jolly once the 40km night march began. The road was endless but the tasks en route were imaginative, rappelling by the light of glo sticks for instance, and the Commanding Officer kept me company for most of the way. All in all OSONS provided an excellent initial insight to the SSFs personnel and equipment,

and in retrospect I found it rather enjoyable.

In October I found myself posted as the 2IC of the Fallex Armoured Umpire Unit in Germany. It was rather ironic to be back there on exercise during the German Unity celebrations after having been stationed there for a few rather tense Cold War years; the exercise was obviously rather restrained but before I returned to Canada I was able to do two things I would have thought impossible only a year before; firstly

drink vodka with Russian officers in East Germany and secondly shake hands with men I knew who were off to war in the Middle East.

On my return I started learning the language of the old enemy and took jazz piano lessons to see me through the winter, and then the excesses of Leliefontein were upon us. It is such a joy to see so many members of the "family" gathered together, and having fun, and I was flattered to have been so readily accepted by the Regiment. (Editor's Note: It would have been even better if Capt Swayne would have joined us on parade!)

Now that an officer has been chosen to join the Blues and Royals in England it is my hope that the exchange program will not lapse as before – for although there is an aura of novelty that surrounds the position there is no doubt in my mind that it dispels prejudice, promotes the exchange of ideas and experiences, and most importantly leads to friendships that transcend Nationality. In the light of present conflict I regard that as invaluable.

Taking as many opportunities as I can to travel, I am looking forward to the rest of my time in Canada. I only wish more people played cricket!



1st Canadian Division Detachment – SITREP

Enclosed are pictures of a veteran Dragoon at the 45th anniversary of the Liberation of The Netherlands. Between 2 and 10 May, 1990, 1st Canadian Division Forward deployed 350 soldiers, sailors and airmen to various communities in Holland to help the Dutch and their returning liberators solemnly remember the events of 1945.

Approximately 7500 veterans with their spouses were the guests of various communities throughout the country. The out pouring of love and respect for the aging group of warriors was a magnificent experience for today's Canadian soldiers.

There was no way of determining the level of Dragoon participation. I do believe every WWII Regiment was represented. I attended a major event in Groningen on 3 May and met Mr Robert Gibson. Mr Gibson had lost his wife only months earlier in 1990 and had considered cancelling his reservation. He did not and as we said farewell to each other some eight days later, he remembered outstanding Dutch hospitality and soldierly camaraderie and was very pleased that he had followed through.

I have included several pictures of Mr Gibson. He was one of only two Canadians who wore the Battle Dress in the National Veteran's Parade at Apeldoorn. With RCD badges he was readily identifiable.

I know that there were at least another five WWII Dragoons who participated. They were hosted in other locations and we never had the occasion to meet.

The Dutch government plans the 50th anniversary in 1995 to be the last and largest national celebration of the Liberation. In between and thereafter, there undoubtedly will be the annual local celebrations and individual pilgrimages. Based on my experiences in 1990 I stand convinced that 1995 will be very well attended by veterans of all Regiments including The RCD.

I enclose pictures which you might chose to use in a future newsletter or in the Regimental journal. Robert Gibson's address follows and is provided for those who have lost touch with him and also for anyone who wishes to pursue the mechanics involved (travel arrangements, contacts, etc.)

Mr Robert Gibson
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Most Sincerely,

Col. R.J. Meeting

TWO SOLDIERS IN CONVERSATION



Tpr Sean Maher, 8CH and Sgt Robert Gibson, RCD.
(Mr Gibson had disposed of his battle dress years before but purchased a set for the 1990 Liberation Anniversary).



Comparing 1st Div Patches 7 May 90.



"The Cemetery at Groesbeek" – Easily 20 000 participants and spectators.

Ex PROUD FLAG

The year began with a flurry of activity and foreshadowed the year to come. On January 15 The Regiment deployed to Meaford for Ex "PROUD FLAG". Defence of Canada and winter warfare training were the order of the day. Despite the best laid plans of mice and men the weather swept down and led to Ex "PROUD FLAG" becoming operation "Murphy's law". Frigid January days gave way to sloppy, wet and rainy ones. Winter Warfare training took a back seat (It being difficult to build snow shelters and defences with slush).

As the rain and wet snow fell on the peaceful farmland south of Meaford, a battle was brewing. A Sqn split apart, Troop took on Troop in Armoured Car fighting making use of the numerous country roads to best advantage. Different and not so easy a task for tankers conditioned to the Lawfield corridor or other sterile training areas. Navigation and tactics were tested, as well as command and control. Where did the hidden enemy lurk? Just ask 12 who found themselves constantly chasing phantom 4 Troop only to be struck from behind when it was least expected.

Mixed in with Armoured Car tactics was the small arms range and the Co ax Battle Runs. BC A Captain Holton kept slipping and calling the Cougars tanks. The Battle Runs were a good preview of the RAMSHEAD training to come. Adaptability was demonstrated by all, combining good sense and a realistic grasp of the situation. Sgt Gagne' and his maintenance Troop kept the vehicles running despite the kilometers and the rough terrain (on the way to the harbour!). The best lesson of all was that training for the Canadian winter means weather, but no guarantee which kind!



BIATHLON - 1990



The real reason behind Biathlon . . . canteen profits.



Gen Addy presents Maj Natynczyk with a plaque of recognition.

Ski swiftly and shoot straight could be heard echoing through the A-Sqn Annex known to some as Biathlon control. In Feb. 90 A Sqn hosted the SSF Biathlon Championships which was the preliminary for the FMC Biathlon Championships (and Cadet National Championships) held 26 Feb - 2 Mar. To the untrained observer an armoured regiment hosting a traditionally infantry sport may seem

unusual but not to A Sqn. A Sqn thrives on competition and challenges and Biathlon 1990 certainly fitted the bill. The entire Sqn plus resources begged, borrowed and stolen from other Sqn's, were employed to produce what was called by experts from FMC a first rate event.

Capt James Ostler was the force behind the competitions, mega phone in hand, he marshalled the skiers, contended with rules, protests and again . . . weather. When you want snow you can never get it. There were some uneasy days but Lt. Brunton's met rep always came through. Lt Carson and Sgt Naylor kept the range in order and the coaches in line while Lt Blackburn and Sgt Duke kept them out of the control tower. SSM Bierhorst and Sgt Carew kept the

camp in good order, sorting out who slept where and if oatmeal could be had for breakfast.

MCpl's Dale and Rodd skied the trails to update their condition while MCpl Bolduc eyed with suspicion skiers, poles and rifles for anything unusual. Everyone was involved and became somewhat of an expert on Biathlon, Maj Natynczyk being no exception. His ability to stare a coach in the eyes, quote a rule and dictate a hopeful protest was of great use. Two A Sqn pers didn't become Biathlon experts however; Lt Lamshoeft and Lt Watson explored the world of administration and although they could tell you who came from where, on what flight and where they slept, neither of them saw a race to its finish.



Lt Carson, Sgt Naylor and Coy - Range marshals.



MCpl Bolduc, Tpr Thibert, Tpr Mitchell - keep a keen eye on the equipment check.

Ex PLEIN CONTACT



Enjoying some cold refreshments in the "assembly area" shortly after arrival.



Cpl Lorimer shows his winning form.

The Regiment played host to their fellow black-hatters from CFB Valcartier, 12 RBC, 16 - 18 Feb 90.

LCol J.D.M. Maisonneuve with 72 all ranks were ready to compete against the RCD in floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, and a biathlon competition. The 12 RBC arrived to a glass of Moose Milk. Old acquaintances were rekindled after which all members moved off to their respective messes.

Opening ceremonies marked the beginning of the sports competitions at Dundonald Hall on 17 Feb 90. The first competition was floor hockey. Both teams played a superb game which ended in a 1 - 1 tie. Well done to both teams. The second event was basketball in which the RCD won with a convincing score of 44 to 17. In volleyball, the 12 RBC came back with a vengeance winning two games straight.

At 1400 hrs the biathlon competition began. The race, however, had to be conducted as an exhibition competition due to administrative difficulties. Congratulations go to Cpl J.D. Lorimer of the RCD for being the fastest man on the trails.

Both teams and supports met at the Coriano Club at 1900 hrs for a beer call and awards presentation.

LCol Appleton presented LCol Maisonneuve with a print of the RCD Saving of the Guns at Leliefontein. This was reciprocated with a finely detailed engraved plaque of the 12 RBC Cap Badge. The remainder of the evening was spent exchanging war stories and trying to gain a psychological edge in preparation for the RAMSHEAD and the Merritt Cup competitions. The 12 RBC departed 1000 hrs 19 Feb 90 in good spirit and a desire to compete again the next time we meet.



"King for a day" Tpr McGill lights the flame while LCol Maisonneuve, RSM Temple and LCol Appleton look on.

EX SOUTHERN THRUST



Honest Sgt Carew, it was MCpl Rodd's fault.



Visability nil, time to brew up.



So this is what a tank looks like.



B Sqn on the move across country.

ON GUARD '90

*Major 'Thumper' Natynczyk
shows his stuff.*



*How many Sergeants
does it take to change a
tire, and where is
Thumper?*



*Tpr Oland, "We may
be tired, but we did
floss."*



CHANGE OF COMMAND

20 July 1990

*LCol M.W. Appleton
marches on The
Guidon.*



*The Royal
Canadian
Dragoons.*



With the stroke of a pen, Command changes.



LCol R.J. Hillier marches past The Regiment.



FREEDOM OF THE CITY



Lt Col Hillier leads the Parade.



*Dragoons march
through Fredricton.*



*The Honor Guard awaits
BGen Bell's arrival.*



The Regiment's gift of thanks.

A Fairwell to Brigadier-General C. G. Bell

The inspection.





B Sqn prepares for the arrival of the families.



Ex SPRINGBOK STRIKE FAMILY DAY

MCpl Campbell assists a young Dragon.



I knew I could find them.



Cpl Shaggy and friends.

LELIEFONTEIN '90



The Three Victoria Cross Winners

The Commonwealth's highest military decoration for bravery is the Victoria Cross. It was founded by Queen Victoria in 1856 to reward outstanding gallantry in the Crimean War. The decoration, a bronze cross pattée with, in relief, the Royal crest, bears the simple words: "For Valour." It is suspended from a ribbon that was formerly blue for the navy and red for the army; the ribbon is now red (a dull crimson) for all three services.

COCKBURN, Hampden Zane Churchill

V.C. Leliefontein, Komati River, November 7th, 1900
Born Toronto, November 19th, 1867
Unit The Royal Canadian Dragoons
Died Toronto, July 13th, 1913

Lieut. Cockburn, Lieut. Turner and Sergt. Holland won the Victoria Cross in a very gallant defence of the guns at Komati River. General Smith-Dorrien, by a wide turning movement, compelled the enemy to vacate a very strong position. The Boers were very strongly reinforced during the night and tried to recover their position next day; but Colonel Evans, with the Canadian Mounted Rifles and two guns of the 84th Battery, forestalled them, after a gallop of two miles. On the returning march, the rearguard consisted of the Canadian Dragoons and two Canadian 12-pounders, under Colonel Lessard. After some heavy fighting they were unexpectedly charged in the afternoon by 200 mounted Boers, who got within seventy yards before they were stopped by the Canadian Dragoons. Lieut. Cockburn held them off at a most critical moment and deliberately sacrificed himself and his party to let the guns get away. He was slightly wounded himself, and his men were all either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners. Later in the day Lieut. Turner, who had already been twice wounded, dismounted, and deploying his men at close quarters, drove off the enemy. Sergt. Holland worked a Colt gun with most deadly effect, until at last he found the enemy almost on top of him, and the horse attached to the carriage much blown. He then lifted the gun off the carriage, mounted his horse, and rode away with the gun under his arm.

The Victoria Cross



KNISLEY, William Andrew

D.C.M. Leliefontein, Komati River,
November 7th, 1900
Unit The Royal Canadian Dragoons
Died Killed in action, South Africa,
Spring, 1902

Trooper W.A. Knisley was recommended for the Victoria Cross for rescuing a dismounted Dragoon under very heavy enemy fire. He was, however, awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for this gallant act. Fifteen months later Tpr Knisley was killed in action after refusing to surrender to an overwhelming Boer force.



TURNER, Richard Ernest William

V.C. Leliefontein, Komati River, November 7th, 1900
Born Quebec City, July 25th, 1871
Unit The Royal Canadian Dragoons
Died Quebec City, June 19th, 1961

The guns were in grave danger of being captured. Lieutenant Turner galloped up and shouted, "Dismount and hold back the enemy!" I remember him distinctly saying "Never let it be said the Canadians had let their guns be taken!" . . . Again Lieutenant Turner galloped up, now seriously wounded in the neck and his arm shattered . . . But the important thing was, the guns of D battery had not been captured; they had been saved by the stubborn resistance of the R.C.D. Trooper A.E. Hilder, R.C.D.

HOLLAND, Edward James Gibson

V.C. Leliefontein, Komati River, November 7th, 1900
Born Ottawa, February 2nd, 1878
Unit The Royal Canadian Dragoons
Died Cobalt, Ontario, June 18th, 1948

On the left, Sergt. Eddie Holland in charge of the Colt Machine Gun, had successfully held back the enemy, but his ammunition playing out, he finally moved the barrel from the gun . . . and holding the barrel which was still hot . . . I saw him gallop off to safety.

Trooper A.E. Hilder, R.C.D.

Though the Colt carriage was captured, Sergt. Holland pluckily saved the gun by taking it off and riding away with it when the Boer charge was almost up to him. Then a funny thing happened. The Boers thought they had captured the gun and tried to turn it . . . When they found the gun was gone they were so angry they burned the carriage. Lt. R.E.W. Turner, R.C.D.



*General Carew
inspects his
Honor Guard.*

*The winning
team in the
Tug-of-War
is . . .*



*. . . HQ/RHQ,
Major Natynczyk
accepts the
award.*



*Recce Sqn
takes gold in
floor hockey.*

*With a 3 way tie for
first place after sports
day the drill competi-
tion decides the out-
come. MCpl Thody
begins the day.*



The A Sqn team.



*The
Headquarters
Sqn team.*



*The Recce
Sqn team.*



*The winning
team from
B Sqn.*

*LCol Hillier
takes
command of
the parade
from his 2IC
Maj Gorman.*



*The Guidon, with
escort, is marched
on parade.*

*Brigadier
General Carew
inspects the
Regt.*





The inspection.



The ceremonial laying of the drums.



The drum-head ceremony begins.

A Sqn is presented the award for top Squadron during Leliefontein Celebrations.



LCol Hillier presents the Col of the Regt's sword to Lt Bill Main.

MCpl Lacoursiere is awarded the ETSM plaque as the most outstanding Non-Crewman Jr NCO with the Regt.





*MCpl Cambell
accepts the trophy
for B Sqn's first
place finish in the
drill competition.*



*LCol Hillier for-
mally ends the
parade and asks
permission to
carry on.*



*Maj Hale accepts
the trophy for the
Volksmarch on
behalf of B Sqn.*

Men's Christmas Dinner



CO Prost gives his address.



LCol Hillier carves the Christmas Turkey, as the RSM looks on.



... as the officers and Senior NCO's prepare to serve.



RSM Tawton shows off his new rank.



The men eagerly await their meal . . .

REGIMENTAL SPORTS



RCD SPRINGBOKS HOCKEY TEAM

Front Row (L to R): Cpl Lyndsay; MCpl Bailey; Tpr Page; MWO Rousseau; Tpr Pynn; Capt. Hartley; MCpl Tremblay.
Rear Row (L to R): Tpr Leblanc; Tpr Zacharis; Tpr Duffet; WO Cucinelli; Sgt Yazwinski; MCpl Rice; Cpl Dupuis;
 Sgt Ferguson; Cpl Rice; Tpr Galipeau; Tpr Tage; Tpr Monaghan; Tpr Lanning; MCpl Crook.
Missing: Lt Blackburn, Tpr Morrison, Tpr Boach, Tpr Gran.



RCD Volleyball team, February '90 silver medalists.



*C Squadron's
Broomball Team
1989/90 Champions.*

*C Squadron's Fastball
Team, CFB Gagetown
Champions.*



1990 BIATHLON TEAM



*BGen Adams presents Cpl Lorimer with
the Gold medal for the 15km cross-
country Biathlon Race.*



*MCpl Dobbin, MCpl Lingley, BGen Adams, *Sgt Nickerson, *Lt Charles, *Tpr
Hand and *Cpl Lorimer.
FMC Army Patrol Champions.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons Association

Atlantic Regional Chapter

The Atlantic Regional Chapter of our Association is honoured to be allowed to use the media of the Springbok to send a short sitrep on our chapter to all Dragoons where ever they are serving.

The chairman of the ARC is a well known Dragoon and former Regimental Sergeant Major of the Regiment, Gordon (Busher) Bennett. His executive committee are also well known Dragoons, but because of space and other reasons, will not be named at this time.

For our chapter, 1990 was a very successful year. Our membership totaled 155, of which 47 are lifetime members.

Entertainment wise, the chapter held its annual BBQ in June, and Reunion in conjunction with C Squadron in October. The highlight of our Reunion was the visit of our Colonel of the Regiment, BGen P.H. Carew. We also had many members of our chapter attend the various functions and ceremonies commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of our Corps. In December, C Squadron invited our members to their All ranks Christmas dinner, those who attended had a grand time. Many thanks to the Commanding Officer and Squadron Sergeant Major of "C" force for their kindness.

This year we will hold our annual BBQ at the end of May, and Reunion the first week in November, all Dragoons are welcome.

There are many Dragoons out in the weeds of Canada, we would ask that you flush them out and encourage them to join the nearest chapter of our Association in their area. For further information regarding the A.R.C. please write to; PO Box 344, Oromocto, N.B., E2V 2H9. Attention Gordon Bennett or Leroy MacAdams (secretary).

On a sadder note we had several of our comrades pass away over the past year, we will always remember: **Kevin Murphy; Terry Lyons; Burton Justason; Carl Olsen; Earle MacMaster.**

Finally, all downhomer Dragoons wish all Dragoons both serving and retired, a happy, healthy, and prosperous year ahead.

Good Shooting – A.R.C.



Reunion 90 – Maj. Brough, Wayne Bronnell, Bill Campbell and Bill Mulholland share a story.

EONT Chapter

The Eastern Ontario Association consists of some 107 members principally located in the Ottawa-Hull area but ranging through the various centres of the Vally and right down to Kingston. As a result, getting everyone together is by no means easy. Accordingly, the biggest task is to put together a periodic newsletter and try to keep a mailing list accurate.

This year was not our turn to host the national association annual meeting, having completed that pleasant task in 89. However, a number of members were invited by the War Museum to represent the branch at the opening of the Museum display in June, dedicated to the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Armoured Corps. On 7 Nov, over seventy members and their guests gathered in the Stables at the Somerset Mess in Ottawa to mark Leliefontein 90. Special thanks go to a serving RCD, Maj Karmin McKay, for his efforts in organizing the lunch, refreshments and afternoon festivities. What really put the celebration across, however, were the visits by the CO and representative officers of the Regiment accompanied by two Dragoon Troopers who braved the elements in their smart Review Order uniforms at the Mess entrance. Comments from Mess members and the public at large made it clear that they were not only highly visible but well regarded. Our thanks to the Regiment for their efforts and interest.

For anyone wishing to get or pass information on the EONT Chapter members, contact the Chapter Chairman, Gary Del Villano, 471 Sunnyside Ave., Ottawa, K1S 0S8 or telephone 992-0740 at NDHQ. Hope to see you in 91!



BBQ 90 – The Moore's (ED) and McNeil's (Butch) dig in.



BBQ 90 – The Butcher's (Merritt), Rectors (Russ) and Fougere's (Joe) enjoy a cool one.

Toronto & Region Chapter

What a way to commence the years activity! Hosting the Association annual reunion and general meeting.

A throng of enthusiastic revelers descended on the Days Inn on May 11-12-13th in anticipation of a week-end consumed with merry-making and comradery. Their expectations no doubt were satisfied, they left with spirits buoyed in anticipation of the return engagement at the Holiday Inn, Kingston June 14-15-16th.

Briefly, the focal points of the engagement were the hospitality suite, where stories of adventure and mis-adventure abounded, the succulent and ample roast beef dinner satisfying the most discriminate of diners, and the choice music and hilarious antics supplied by Mac Butler's "Foul" harmonic Orchestra rounding out the whole affair.

Because the Association reunion conflicted with the annual reunion of the D-Day Dodgers the RCD were not represented however we shall be in Orillia in full force in 1991. We could be the Honoured Regiment in 1992 so be prepared.

The 1990 Warriors Day Parade was so important the "AT-A-BOY" award goes to all who turned out, in spite of the threatening skies. Fortunately, the rain did not materialize until we were cooling out with a round of the "Golden Throat Charmer".

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corp, the parade Honour Section comprised of all armoured regiments. In the traditional order of march, the Toronto Chapter took the lead. You bet we were a proud group.

On dismissal, it was off to Legion Branch 42 for good food, good music, good comradeship, and good gosh, why would you miss it?

Ceremonies and displays commemorating the Golden Jubilee of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corp surpassed all expectations. A marvelous display at the Canadian National Exhibition drew huge crowds. Equipment such as the Leopard, Cougar, Ferret, and Lynx to name a few, attracted spectators, both young and old. Amazingly, the recruitment centre received hundreds of applications from prospective recruits, both male and female.

Base Borden, September 30th witnessed the

unveiling and dedication of a commemorative plaque by Mrs. Worthington and Governor-General Ray Hnatyshn. The Governor-General arrived escorted by mounted Governor General Horse Guards in ceremonial attire. The guard of honour comprised The Royal Canadian Dragoons supplemented with personnel from various other armoured regiments. In spite of the inclement weather, the affair was well attended, and certainly worth the effort.

Friday, Sept. 28/90 the Chapter convened its annual meeting at our traditional location - The H.M.C.S. York, Chief and Petty Officers Mess, on the shores of beautiful Lake Ontario? The Senior Service treats us ROYALY, and you sure can't beat the price.

Attendance was down slightly (except at the bar), due mainly to illness. Sick parade listed sixteen known members afflicted with various stages of maladies. I guess that's indicative to our age group. Where are the young replacements? Well, any way, we shall soldier on! Although the agenda was minimal, a spirited dialogue developed. I guess you call that participatory democracy. Chef Norm Wood, and brew master Elmer Haney rounded out the evening with an appetizing repast.

Undaunted by blustery cool weather, members of the Chapter in concert with Legion Branch 42, attended Remembrance Day Services at the Kew Beach Cenotaph. The RCD wreath laying honours went to Elmer Haney and Ed Gray. Parading to the Cenotaph, the service, and marching back to the dispersal point, took all of one hour. A small amount of time from our busy lives to pay respect to our fallen comrades.

On arrival at Branch 42 a warm cup of Irish coffee awaited. A fitting start to the comradeship, food and frolic to follow.

From the Toronto and Region Chapter, keep well, we shall see you at the 1991 reunion in Kingston (not Collins Bay, The Holiday Inn).



V.I.P. Table Association Reunion, Toronto, May 11-12-13/90.



Warriors Day Parade, Toronto, Aug 18/90.



Last Mounted Parade.

A Look Back



Daimler troops.



Shermans in Korea.



RCD marching in columns towards the front lines in France.

Mary Otter Competition



First aid team arrives at the airport passenger terminal and is met by the terrorists.

The two terrorists are overlooking the work of MCpl Lingley and his team. The team is giving first aid to the persons hurt after an explosion and shots were fired.



MCpl Zinck is supervising the transport of a person with a spinal injury. He used the bystanders to move the casualty as he was ordered by one of the terrorists.

Cpl Matheson giving first aid to a person with a sucking chest wound and a serious eye injury. The terrorist is about to kick the FA kit bag as he suspected a weapon inside.



MCpl Lingley (team captain) giving first aid to an injured pregnant woman.



Cpl Matheson giving first aid to an injured person with a sucking chest wound.



MCpl Thody and MCpl Lingley trying to give FA to the injured, but the two terrorists are giving them a hard time.



MCpl Zinck being forced at gun point to move the injured person (the one with a back injury).



RCD OFFICERS' MESS, 3 DECEMBER 1990



Front Row (L to R): Maj Kampman, Maj Hale, Maj Gorman, LCol Hillier, Maj Natynczyk, Maj Cessford, Capt Atkins.

Middle Row: Capt Edwards, Lt Frank, Capt Howse, Capt Herbert, Lt Workman, Lt Laursen, Lt Carson, Capt Hartley.

Rear Row: Lt Charles, Capt Steele, Capt Maddison, Lt Morrison, Lt Boule, Lt Plourde, Lt Blackburn, Capt Holton, Capt Ross, Lt Allen, Capt Splaine.

Missing: Capt Thomas, Capt Barr, Capt Ostler, Lt Brunton.

RCD WO'S AND SERGEANT'S MESS 1990



Front row (L to R): WO Landry; WO Howse, MWO Lusk; MWO Hills; MWO Mockler; CWO Mercer; MWO Bierhorst; MWO Rousseau; MWO Levesque; MWO Crowters; WO Scott.

Center row (L to R): WO Muise, WO Hopkins, WO Smith, PO Lavis; WO Lamarche; WO Meigen; Sgt Osborne; Sgt Yazwisky, Sgt Breau; Sgt White; Sgt Barr, Sgt Tozer; Sgt Mitchel; Sgt Ferguson; WO Boutilier; Sgt Hendsbee; Sgt Dobbin; Sgt Lirard, Sgt Decker; WO Mivile; Sgt OQuinn, Sgt Gagne; Sgt Fagans.

Rear row (L to R): Sgt Godden; WO Pearcey; Sgt Weibe; Sgt Carew, WO Cucinelli, Sgt Wheatly; Sgt Thomas; Sgt Dubé, Sgt Tarrant; Sgt Stacey, WO McNeil; Sgt Green; Sgt Carberry; Sgt Ritchie; Sgt Duke, Sgt Taylor; Sgt Hamel; Sgt Downey; Sgt Nickerson; Sgt Wright; Sgt Lehman; Sgt Brooks; WO OBrien; Sgt Smith.







The Royal Canadian Dragoons



The Royal Canadian Dragoons "Saving the Guns at Leliefontein" 7th November 1900